



**ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT TREATMENT IN COMMUNICATIONS
FAILURE OR WITHOUT BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT**

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1798. California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Title 22, Section 100145.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy defines the steps to be followed in the event that a patient requires advanced life support interventions and the EMT-P is unable to establish or maintain communications with the assigned base hospital. This policy is separate and distinct from the accepted use of "standing orders" utilized prior to initiating base hospital (BH) contact or in the event of a medical disaster.

The provisions of this policy are limited to Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) accredited EMT-Ps functioning in their assigned duties on an approved advanced life support (ALS) unit.

III. DEFINITION:

"Communication failure" means the inability of an EMT-P to communicate with a BH due to equipment, transmission, and/or reception problems as well as those rare occasions in which paramedics may not have time to establish base contact due to extenuating patient care circumstances.

IV. CRITERIA:

- A. *When it is necessary to obtain a BH order for ALS interventions the EMT-P shall make every reasonable attempt to establish voice communications with a BH through the normal biomedical or other communication system.*
- B. When the EMT-P has reasonably established that a direct or an alternative communication link with a BH is not possible and the patient's condition requires immediate intervention, the EMT-P may initiate or maintain ALS treatment until communication is established, or the patient is delivered to a paramedic receiving center (PRC), or a physician at the scene assumes responsibility for the care of the patient.
- C. Upon completion of the emergency call, a verbal report will be given immediately to the ALS unit's assigned BH. The BH will assign a run number and complete a Base Hospital Report.
- D. A complete accounting of the incident and circumstances must be filed with the assigned BH on the OCEMS Report of ALS Services Provided Without Base Hospital Contact approved form (attachment) within twenty-four hours of the incident.
- E. The BH prehospital care coordinator and the BH physician director shall review and evaluate each incident for appropriateness of ALS interventions.

Italicized Text Identifies Quotations from an Authority Outside the OC EMS.

COUNTY OF ORANGE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**REPORT OF ALS SERVICES PROVIDED WITHOUT
BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT**

	BH	YR	MO	DAY	RUN	PT
1. Run #	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

and/or Fire Incident #

2. Date and Time of Incident: _____

3. Paramedic Unit: _____

4. Location of Incident: _____

5. Describe in detail the reason(s) or suspected reason(s) BH contact not established: _____

6. Emergency medical procedures initiated and/or maintained:

General Evaluation/Initial Assessment of Patient: _____

Treatment Decisions: _____

Patient's Response to Treatment: _____

Additional Comments: _____

7. Attachment: Copy of Prehospital Care Report

8. Immediate Verbal Report Given to MICN: _____

9. Paramedic: _____ EMT-P # _____ Date ____/____/____

10. Paramedic: _____ EMT-P # _____ Date ____/____/____

11. PCC/MICN Receiving this Report _____ MICN # _____ Date ____/____/____

BASE HOSPITAL:

Base hospital physician review:

- ☐ Treatment appropriate for situation
- ☐ Treatment provided consistent with established treatment guidelines
- ☐ Treatment provided not consistent with established treatment guidelines. Corrective action planned: _____

BH Physician Signature: _____

Date ____/____/____